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CDCR Parolee Reforms Lead to Lowest Parolees-at-Large in 15 Years

The California Parole Apprehension Team (CPAT) - created as part of the Governor's parole reforms - in less than 8 months has arrested or located 2,598 parolees-at-large, a record for the fastest and largest reduction of fleeing offenders in state history.

The number of parolees who have absconded parole supervision and are currently at large in California has decreased from 15,927 when CPAT units were formed in January, 2010 to 13,329 by mid-August.

The current number of 13,329 active parolees-at-large (PALs) is also the lowest in at least 15 years. By comparison, the highest number of PALs in California occurred in 2003 when there were 19,954.

The establishment of CPAT is part of the recent parole reforms by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) that directs more intense focus on those individuals that pose the most risk to public safety.

"This is a significant and ongoing victory for public safety," said CDCR's



Parolee-at-large taken into custody as part of CPAT operations.

Division of Adult Parole Operations Director Robert Ambroselli, who oversees the unit. "Dedicated parole agents and staff work tirelessly every day to protect Californians. Parole reforms have allowed us to focus on the most serious offenders who are highest risk for potentially harming someone in the public."

The new apprehension team was created in part through a reallocation of resources made possible by recent parole reforms. CPAT team members have received extensive training in

fugitive apprehension, database searches, social networking, field tactics and firearms training at CDCR's Office of Correctional Safety Academy. CDCR has equipped CPAT with computer technology to help seek and find high-risk PALs, including locating deceased PALs or those taken into custody in other states.

CPAT teams consist of a Regional Intelligence (Intel) Unit located in each of four regional offices and multiple field apprehension teams spread throughout the regions.

For examples of parolees captured and for the history of the Division of Adult Parole Operations efforts to capture parolees-at-large, visit the department's web site at www.cdcr.ca.gov or visit the intranet at: <http://intranet/opcc/Lists/CDCR%20Today/CDCR%20Today.aspx>

Chuckawalla, Ironwood State Prison Employees Respond to Life-Threatening Accident

In August, staff members from Chuckawalla Valley and Ironwood state prisons heading to work, responded to a life threatening emergency involving a vehicle roll-over on the Interstate 10 freeway.

Chuckawalla Valley State Prison (CVSP) Correctional Officer David Matthews, Correctional Officer Andre Templer, Sergeant (Sgt.) Paul Ayala, Sgt Melecio Madrid, Lieutenant Courtney Horne, and Registered Nurse (RN) Mara Winsick were en route to work for third watch and assisted at an accident scene.

As their vehicle approached, Officer Matthews observed a Chevrolet SUV, transporting a family of four had rolled over several times after suffering a blown tire.

Upon arriving on the scene, the

correctional staff went into action immediately. Staff saw one of the passengers, a 16-year-old male, trapped underneath the vehicle after apparently being ejected while the vehicle

was rolling. The other three passengers were seat belted in their seats and remained inside the vehicle.

Sgt. Madrid approached the driver of the vehicle and noticed she was in shock and unresponsive. Ironwood State Prison (ISP) employees Sgt Francisco Aguilar,



Four CVSP staff who responded.

Correctional Officers Veronica Aguilar, Scott Bowen, and G. H. Conley arrived simultaneously and assisted in removing everyone from inside the vehicle. The additional staff were able to tip the vehicle and rescue the trapped youth.

"I am very proud of all the CVSP and ISP staff members and the fire

fighters involved," said J. Tim Ochoa, Warden (A), Chuckawalla State Prison. "The quick response and life saving techniques utilized is a reflection to their professional demeanor and training that is instilled by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation."